

DID YOU KNOW . .

- * Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 killer of 16-20 year olds.
- * Motor vehicles kill more teens than cancer, gang violence, suicide or drugs and alcohol.
- * Most Montana fatalities involve single vehicle rollovers and ejections.
- * Chances of being killed are 25 times greater if thrown from a vehicle.
- * Male teens are less likely to wear seat belts than female teens.
- * Seat belts save over 10,000 lives in America every year.
- * Seat belts are your best protection in a crash.
- * Seat belts can reduce your risk of a serious injury in a crash.
- * Seat belts protect the head and spinal cord from impacts inside the vehicle such as with the steering wheel and windshield.
- * Seat belts, in conjunction with air bags, can reduce the chance of fatality by 45-55%.
- * Wearing your safety belt actually improves your chances to free yourself and help other passengers.
- * Between 1999 and 2003, more than 1,800 Montana teenagers aged 15-18 were seriously injured or incapacitated while another 129 teenagers died as a result of motor vehicle crashes.

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FRIENDS ASK THEIR FRIENDS TO . . .



CRASH DETAILS . . .

The ***1st Collision*** causes the car to buckle and bend. In a frontal crash with any unyielding object at an impact speed of 30 mph, the front end of the car crushes about 2 feet.

The ***2nd Collision*** is the “human collision” as the car’s occupants hit some part of the interior. At the moment of impact, unbelted occupants are still traveling at the vehicle’s original speed. In a 30 mph crash, an occupant strikes the interior of the car with a force of more than 3,000 pounds.

The ***3rd Collision*** is the “internal organs collision” which are still moving forward. Injuries to the brain can cause permanent brain damage. 45.2% of all spinal cord injuries are a result of motor vehicle crashes.

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MONTANA’S LAW . . .

Montana law states that a driver may not operate a motor vehicle unless each occupant of a designated seating position is wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt. If you are stopped by law enforcement and not wearing a seat belt, you will be fined.



DO IT RIGHT . . .

The ***LAP BELT*** should be 2-4" below the waist, snug across your hip and pelvic bones...NOT across your stomach.

The ***SHOULDER STRAP*** goes over your collarbone then across your chest and hips. Take the slack out of the belt by pulling and letting it retract. **NEVER** put the shoulder strap under or behind your arm.

During a crash, fastened safety belts distribute the forces of rapid deceleration over larger, stronger parts of your body (chest, hips and shoulders). ***AIR BAGS*** are designed to work with seat belted occupants.